

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 070368
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/KSMITH
APPROVED BY EUR -REBARBOUR
S/S-PSEBASTIAN

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R 300325Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 070368

NODIS

FOL RPT BONN 05298 ACTION SECSATE DATED 25 MAR 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T BONN 05298

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN PO GW
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 64026

1. I RAISED THE POINTS IN THE REFTEL WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER ON MARCH 24, AND MENTIONED THAT I
WOULD ALSO BE TAKING THEM UP WITH FINANCE MINISTER APEL.
I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY
TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF MARCH 8 TO CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS IN THAT:

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-- THE FRG AGREES FULLY THAT PORTUGAL IS
POLITICALLY IMPORTANT.

-- THE FRG HAS BEEN A FIRM ADVOCATE OF STRONG
SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL.

-- THE FRG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING PORTUGAL.

2. GENSCHER ADDED THAT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS IS THE QUESTION OF HOW TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM. THE FRG IS NOT AS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE IMF METHOD OF ASSISTANCE AS THE US IS. HOWEVER, THE FRG POSITION IS NOT YET FIRM. WHILE THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE GOAL OF AIDING PORTUGAL, THERE IS CONTINUING DISCUSSION OVER THE BEST METHOD. IN VIEW OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS, THE METHOD OF EXTENDING ASSISTANCE ASSUMES GREAT IMPORTANCE.

3. I CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT WE HOPE TO RECEIVE IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FRG. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

4. IN ADDITION TO PLANNING TO MEET WITH FINANCE MINISTER APEL, WE ARE FOLLOWING UP WITH SENIOR LEVELS OF THE CHANCELLERY AND FINANCE MBNISTRY. STOESSEL UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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